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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,150	09/09/2003	Susumu Chida	117068	1894

25944 7590 10/20/2006

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P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

BUI, BING Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/657,150	Applicant(s) CHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Bing Q. Bui	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/12/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application for examination, wherein claims 1, 20 and 21 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gechter et al (US Pat. No. 5,274,700).

Regarding claim 1, referring to figures 2 and 5, Gechter et al teach a telephone terminal equipment comprising telephone terminal equipment comprising:

a first connection unit that connects a line to a terminal equipment of first party which is a terminal equipment of an intended party for an audio call through one of the plural networks including a telephone line network and Internet network (see Figs 2 and 5; col. 3, ln 67-col. 4, ln 4; col. 12, lns 3-14; and col. 13, ln 35-col. 14, ln 25),

a second connection unit that connects a line to a terminal equipment of second party while the line to the terminal equipment of first party is connected by the first connection unit when the terminal equipment of second party responds to a call provided through one of the plural networks based on a command to call the terminal

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equipment of second party which is different from the terminal equipment of first party (see Figs 2 and 5; col. 3, ln 67-col. 4, ln 4; col. 12, lns 3-14; and col. 13, ln 35-col. 14, ln 25),

an audio relay unit that relays audio signals between the terminal equipments of first and second parties by outputting audio signals input from one of the terminal equipments of first and second parties to the other terminal equipment after the lines to the terminal equipments of first and second parties are connected by the first and second connection units (see Figs 2 and 5; col. 3, ln 67-col. 4, ln 4; col. 12, lns 3-14; and col. 13, ln 35-col. 14, ln 25).

As to claims 2-21, they are also rejected for the same reasons set forth in Figs 2 and 5; col. 3, ln 67-col. 4, ln 4; col. 12, lns 3-14; and col. 13, ln 35-col. 14, ln 25 of Gechter et al.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art in general:

U.S. Pat. No. 5,422,942

U.S. Pat. No. 5,432,845

U.S. Pat. No. 5,590,187

U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,812

U.S. Pat. No. 5,960,073

U.S. Pat. No. 6,038,293

U.S. Pat. No. 6,175,564

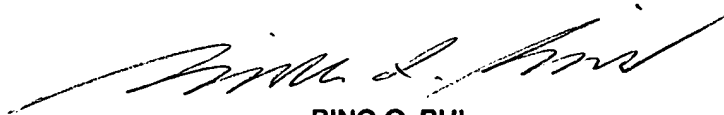
U.S. Pat. No. 6,480,599

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bing Bui, Tel. No. (571) 272-7482. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 5:00.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 and for formal communications intended for entry (please label the response ☐EXPEDITED PROCEDURE☐) or for informal or draft communications not intended for entry (please label the response "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

15 Oct. 2006



BING Q. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER